

EFED IN THE NEWS

May 15 - 19, 2017

EFED All-Hands Meeting. On May 16, EFED held an all-hands meeting to discuss the values that are important to the division. These values, which were developed at a recent EFED management retreat, include advancing science, accomplishments, collaboration, impact, and team work. After introductory remarks by Marietta Echeverria, EFED managers discussed how the branches and the division are implementing these values. With respect to advancing science, EFED managers mentioned the bee bread methodology, drinking water refinements, endangered species tools, and python data modeling. Accomplishments and team work were highlighted in a summary of the recent registration review of several pesticides, including the joint work on the pyrethroids and neonicotinoids. After these presentations, the meeting was opened to questions from the staff. (Marietta Echeverria, 703-305-8578).

Center for Pollinator Research Spring Symposium 2017. Representatives of RD and EFED participated in the annual Center for Pollinator Research Symposium held at Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA. This is the third year of such symposia, which are intended to share updates on research and outreach/extension related to the pollinator health and to engage stakeholders. During the full-day symposium on May 16th, researchers presented on a variety of topics related to factors affecting honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) and non-*Apis* bee populations, including pathogens (e.g., fungal disease Nosema), pests (e.g., varroa mites), pesticides, and poor nutrition (e.g., lack of suitable foraging habitat) and on efforts to develop/implement creative approaches to pollinator conservation. Presentations on pesticides included research on the toxicity of select pesticides to honey bees versus orchard bees (*Osmia* spp) and bumble bees (*Bombus impatiens*) and the effects of agrochemical inert (organosilicone surfactants/adjuvants) on bees. Research was also highlighted on extension efforts related to Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management (IPPM) programs. The symposium also provided an opportunity to learn about progress on Pennsylvania's Pollinator Protection Plan (P4), which Penn State is helping to coordinate across a broad range of stakeholders. After the meeting, EPA met with several of the P4 workgroup members to discuss challenges and benefits associated with pollinator protection plans. (Tom Steeger, 703-305-5444; Meredith Laws, 703-308-7038)

Spray Drift Reduction Technologies Presentation. On May 16th, Dr. Andrew Hewitt, who serves under a joint appointment as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Queensland, Australia and as a Full Professor at The University of Nebraska, USA, gave a presentation to OPP titled "Spray Drift Reduction Technology." In his presentation, Dr. Hewitt discussed emerging ground application technologies that his group is exploring to maximize efficiency and biological efficacy of crop production and protection from compounds with minimal spray drift and impact to non-target systems. Dr. Hewitt also shared information related to spray drift tools developed in Australia for growers to minimize off-site drift from ground application. During his visit he also met with the members of OPP management to discuss the status of the DRT implementation

and projects in European countries and Australia. (Faruque Khan, 703-305-6127; Chuck Peck, 703-347-8064).

AMCA Meeting. On May 17, Phil Villanueva from the Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED) presented at a meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in Washington, D.C. The AMCA organizes an annual conference to discuss with the federal government issues and concerns that affect mosquito control and public health pesticides. The EFED presentation entitled “Update on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) pesticide consultations” provided a brief history of the ESA consultation process; an overview of the interim methods for implementing the recommendations from the 2013 National Academy of Science (NAS) report; an update on the current status of pesticide consultations for chlorpyrifos, malathion, diazinon, methomyl, and carbaryl; and the priorities and challenges to meeting ESA & FIFRA statutory requirements. AMCA members were concerned with the public perception of the biological evaluations EFED released in January 2017, which they thought may be interpreted as indicating that broad area mosquitocide uses adversely impact threatened or endangered species. (Philip Villanueva, 703-308-8665).